

participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting a first participant to a database display;
- (b) connecting a second participant to the database display; and
- (c) displaying a price for the quantity of electrical energy by:
  - (i) [(a)] establishing a database of current hour offers; and
  - (ii) [(b)] establishing a database of next hour offers.

13. (Amended) The method of [Claim] ~~12~~ further comprises displaying the next hour offers during the current hour.

14. (Amended) The method of [Claim] ~~12~~ further comprises stopping the consummation of next hour transactions at a predetermined time during the current hour.

Please add the claims as follows:

16. (New) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
- (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
- (c) transmitting to the database an offer to sell by a first participant based upon the market sale price;
- (d) receiving the offer to sell into the database;
- (e) accepting the offer to sell into the database;
- (f) displaying the offer to sell to said plurality; and

(g) facilitating an acceptance and purchase of the offer to sell by a second participant.

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(New) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

(h) informing the first participant and the second participant of a consummation of the trade transaction.

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(New) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

(i) curtailing the trade transaction by one of the transaction participants.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said offer to sell is comprised of a unit quantity of electrical energy and a unit price.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein step (f) further comprises adjusting the display of the unit price to each participant of the plurality to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy from the first participant to each participant of the plurality.

21.

(New) The method of claim 16, wherein step (f) further comprises displaying a reliability indicator associated with the offer to sell.

22.

(New) The method of claim 16, wherein step (f) further comprises computing and displaying a performance index associated with the trade transaction.

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(New) The method of claim 22, wherein computing the performance index associated with the trade transaction is based upon an individual performance index associated with the first participant, the second participant, or a wheeler.

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14. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the individual performance index is based upon an historical transaction data.

15. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein step (g) further comprises invoicing the trade transaction and clearing a payment obligation for the trade transaction through an electronic settlement process.

26. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized.

27. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy in step (f) are minimized by a method comprised of:

(i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises:

- (a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity;
- (b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants; and

(ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions.

28. (New) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;

(b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;

(c) transmitting to the database an offer to buy by a first participant based upon the market sale price;

(d) receiving the offer to buy into the database;

(e) accepting the offer to buy into the database;

(f) displaying the offer to buy to said plurality; and

(g) facilitating an acceptance of the offer to buy and a promise to deliver by a second participant.

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29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

(h) informing the first participant and the second participant of a consummation of the trade transaction.

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30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

(i) curtailing the trade transaction by one of the transaction participants.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said offer to sell is comprised of a unit quantity of electrical energy and a unit price.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein step (f) further comprises adjusting the display of the unit price to each participant of the plurality to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy to the first participant from each participant of the plurality.

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(New) The method of claim 28, wherein step (f) further comprises displaying a reliability indicator associated with the offer to sell.

134. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein step (f) further comprises computing and displaying a performance index associated with the trade transaction.

135. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein computing the performance index associated with the trade transaction is based upon an individual performance index associated with the first participant, the second participant, or a wheeler.

136. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the individual performance index is based upon an historical transaction data.

137. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein step (g) further comprises invoicing the trade transaction and clearing a payment obligation for the trade transaction through an electronic settlement process.

138. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized.

39. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy in step (f) are minimized by a method comprised of:

- (i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises:
  - (a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity;
  - (b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants; and

(ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions.

*S 0013* 40. (New) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
- (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
- (c) receiving an offer to sell based upon the market sale price into the database;
- (d) receiving an offer to buy based upon the market sale price into the database;
- (e) accepting said offers into the database;
- (f) displaying said offers to said plurality; and
- (g) facilitating a trade transaction for units of electrical energy.

*24* 41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

- (h) informing a first transaction participant and a second transaction participant to the trade transaction of a consummation of the trade transaction.

*25* 42. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

- (i) curtailing the trade transaction by one of the transaction participants.

43. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said offers are comprised of a unit quantity of electrical energy and a unit price.

44. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein step (f) further comprises adjusting the display of the unit price to each participant of the plurality to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy from one participant to each participant of the plurality.

50 45. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein step (f) further comprises displaying a reliability indicator associated with the offers.

51 46. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein step (f) further comprises computing and displaying a performance index associated with the trade transaction.

52 47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein computing the performance index associated with the trade transaction is based upon an individual performance index associated with the first participant, the second participant, or a wheeler.

53 48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the individual performance index is based upon an historical transaction data.

54 49. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein step (g) further comprises invoicing the trade transaction and clearing a payment obligation for the trade transaction through an electronic settlement process.

50. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized.

51. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy in step (f) are minimized by a method comprised of:

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- (i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises:
  - (a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity;
  - (b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants; and
- (ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions.

#### REMARKS

Claims 12-14 and 16-51 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1-11 & 15 were canceled and new claims 16-51 were added. Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has submitted a proposed correction in red ink to the drawings, labeled Figures 42, 58 and 61, as suggested by the Examiner. These changes will be incorporated into a formal set of drawings upon approval of the proposed changes by the Examiner.

No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

While Applicant has canceled claims 1-11 & 15, Examiner's comments regarding his rejection of claim 1 is, nonetheless, addressed to clarify Applicant's position regarding the substance of the invention and, where necessary, respectfully traverse Examiner's basis for rejection.